

been the silent killer of developing and growing LGBT enterprises and a better quality of life for all LGBT Americans. Too often it is the experience that LGBT Americans feel compelled to remain in the closet to safeguard their personal and professional financial condition . . . That millions of LGBT Americans live half lives in the financial marketplace, and the workplace is simply not in the best interest of a strong, vibrant and competitive American economy.

"It is a universal truth that as human beings, we are at our best when we can represent ourselves as whole and complete individuals, encouraged to contribute with vibrant creative energy the many talents unique to each of us as individuals. That LGBT Americans are shackled by institutionalized discrimination is not only shameful, it is not good business."

It is not easy to start an organization, and it is particularly difficult when the organization being started is one that seeks to bridge significant gaps that divide people in our society. There are a number of organizations that effectively advocate for the rights of LGBT Americans. There are others that are forceful supporters of the legitimate interests of the business community. I know no other at the national level that exists precisely not simply to show that these two goals are not inconsistent, but that, properly understood, they reinforce each other.

I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Nelson on several occasions, and I am impressed by the quality of their work. I make this statement today on the floor to call attention to this excellent example of how people can work truly to better our country in every way.

Mr. Speaker, Members seeking more information on this useful organization can consult the hearing of the Subcommittee on Oversight of the House Financial Services Committee on diversity and financial services, which was conducted on July 15, 2004.

IN HONOR OF OUR UNITED STATES
VETERANS AND HOLLY LANE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF
WESTLAKE, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of all veterans of the 10th Congressional District of Ohio—for their service, bravery, and dedication on behalf of our country. Most significantly, we stand in tribute and remembrance of those veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice when they answered the call to duty.

I also stand in honor and recognition of the children and educators of Holly Lane Elementary School. By allowing our students the opportunity to meet and know our veterans, we are presenting them living examples of real heroes. We are giving them a true understanding of the meaning of the words conviction, courage and selflessness. We are offering them the understanding of a vital, living lesson that speaks to our American history and to the preservation of our liberty—the brave men and women who have endured great pain and sacrifice in order to secure

freedom and democracy for us all—our United States Veterans.

Every veteran that stands before us today at Holly Lane Elementary School represents the heart and soul of America and reminds us of our quest for justice and peace here at home, and the struggle of those who seek justice and peace around the world. The staff and students of Holly Lane Elementary School reflect the gratitude and respect for our men and women in the armed forces, sentiments that are shared by all Americans. The students of Holly Lane Elementary School also reflect a vision of hope and faith for our future.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, tribute and gratitude to the men and women of our armed forces, past and present. They reflect the quest and struggle for human rights and freedom from oppression, a basic human element that unifies us all. Let us forever remember and honor their ultimate service, great sacrifice and unwavering sense of commitment to the preservation of our American democracy and our freedoms.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, DC yesterday. Two weeks ago, I injured my leg and my physician prefers that I not put it through the stress of an airplane flight from my home in Seattle, WA to Washington, DC. Were I able to attend today's session in the House of Representatives, I would have voted in support of H.J. Res. 110, H. Res. 750, S. 2693, S. 2214, S. 2640, and H. Res. 641.

IN RECOGNITION OF SUNNYSIDE COMMUNITY SERVICES

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to offer my congratulations to the Sunnyside Community Services Center on its 30th anniversary.

The residents of New York's 12th Congressional District have been enriched by this institution's outstanding example of community cooperation, which provides valuable social, recreational, and educational services to the seniors and families of Western Queens. Thanks to the exemplary board, staff, and volunteer base of the Sunnyside Community Services Center, this once small organization that started in a church basement has blossomed, and has grown to provide an array of integrated activities and programs to over 12,000 residents, annually.

The center offers these services to ensure that members have the opportunity to fully participate in all aspects of community life, while maintaining their independence and healthy lifestyle. This institution has also become a local economic engine, employing 90 percent of its staff from within the Queens

community. The staff runs caregiver programs for frail elderly and homebound seniors, after school programs and camps for elementary and middle-school children, and a variety of educational, social, and recreational activities for active adults.

Over the past 30 years, Sunnyside Community Services Center has expanded its services even further to help meet the challenges faced by emerging immigrant and youth populations that reside in the area today. Their work has reached a significant number of residents of all backgrounds and ages and has allowed them to enjoy an enhanced and comfortable lifestyle.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30th anniversary of the Sunnyside Community Services Center, and join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize the organization's outstanding service and dedication in addressing the needs of the Western Queens community.

TRIBUTE TO LEXINGTON VET- ERANS ADMINISTRATION MED- ICAL CENTER

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today in honor of Veteran's Day; the day our nation sets aside to honor the sacrifice and service of the millions of Americans who risked their lives to protect our country and promote peace. These brave servicemen and women answered the call to defend freedom and serve our country during its time of greatest need. Now, during the month of November, we should repay our gratitude by honoring our commitment to veterans and their families.

As we stand here today and pledge to work for veterans throughout the nation, I am proud to celebrate a recent victory for the veterans of Central Kentucky. Over the last two years, our local veterans fought to keep the Leestown Drive facilities of our Lexington Veterans Affairs Medical Center open in the face of potential consolidation. Thanks to their commitment, the veterans of Central Kentucky will continue to benefit from the excellent medical services and the unique beauty of this facility.

The Lexington Veterans Affairs Medical Center is a nationally recognized health care center with a number of distinguished awards. Most recently, the facility received a \$500,000 award for "Best Overall Performance" among VA hospitals in the MidSouth Healthcare Network, and received the first-ever John M. Eisenberg award for patient safety co-sponsored by the National Quality Foundation and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. I am proud that this hospital will continue to serve the community and provide our veterans with the quality service they deserve.

Veterans Day is a time to honor our nation's true patriots for their courage and commitment to this country. These men and women have protected our families over the years, and now it is our turn to take care of them. Let us renew our promise to our veterans and military retirees and honor the sacrifices they have made so that we may live free. As our troops